



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

The Office of eHealth Innovation

Frequently Asked Questions – November 2015

What is the Office of eHealth Innovation and why was it created?

The Office of eHealth Innovation and the associated eHealth Commission were created under the office of the Governor in Executive Order B 2015-008 because, as a leader in health information technology (Health IT), Colorado is uniquely positioned to achieve significant technological advances and support transformational health programs throughout the state.

Effectively leveraging public and private sector resources and strengthening the sustainability of the Health IT foundation that exists in Colorado will require a coordinated effort. The Office of eHealth Innovation will provide an open and transparent statewide collaborative effort to develop common policies, procedures, and technical approaches aimed at enhancing Colorado's Health IT network. The Office of eHealth Innovation will help to reduce or remove barriers for effective information sharing and interoperability while supporting innovation and transformation with the enhancement the state's Health IT infrastructure.

Will the Office of eHealth Innovation build and own the Health IT infrastructure?

No, the Office of eHealth Innovation will not build or host any of Colorado's Health IT Infrastructure. The Office of eHealth Innovation will define minimum criteria for qualified organizations that will provide state-level, common technical services supporting advanced health IT interoperability. The Office of eHealth Innovation will be led by a Director to be selected by the Governor and supported by the State Health IT Coordinator.

How is the Office of eHealth Innovation funded?

The Office of eHealth Innovation is funded through existing resources provided through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act and previously secured state appropriations

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related to ARRA HITECH projects. In addition, future investments in Health IT projects will be funded through existing funding made through ARRA HITECH, other grant awards, and partnerships with organizations that support Colorado's Health IT infrastructure.

What is the eHealth Commission and what is its role?

The eHealth Commission was created to provide advice and guidance to the Office of eHealth Innovation on advancing Health IT in Colorado. The eHealth Commission will be made up of nine to 15 members appointed by the Governor including those with experience and knowledge in primary health care delivery, behavioral health care delivery, health insurance, non-profit Health IT-related community organizations, interoperability and data exchange, consumer engagement in health care and health care quality measures. The eHealth Commission will include private sector and consumer representation along with the public sector ensuring a holistic approach to the future of Health IT in Colorado.

For more information on applying for eHealth Commission membership, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/governor/boards-and-commissions-0>.

Applications for the eHealth Commission are being accepted by the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions at <https://www.tfaforms.com/290254>.

How do workgroups and consultants help inform the eHealth Commission?

Workgroups that report to the eHealth Commission will be established, and will assess various policies, procedures, and technical approaches that will be reviewed by the eHealth Commission for final adoption. Consultants will be used to minimize the workload impact on the individuals who volunteer to serve on the eHealth Commission and workgroups. These consultants will help research and organize successful Health IT programs from other states and identify industry best practices to help inform the eHealth Commission through the workgroups. In addition, the workgroup will help review proposals from organizations who will invest in Health IT.

What is the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's (HCPF) role with the eHealth Commission?

HCPF serves as the fiscal agent leveraging the state's procurement, contracting, and accounting established processes to manage solicitations, contracts, and payments to vendors and organizations on behalf of the new eHealth Innovation Office. In addition,

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HCPF will provide interim leadership for the new Office of eHealth Innovation until a permanent director can be selected.

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